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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 70% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 85,609 | Nifty 26,205 | Gold 1,27,910 | Silver 16,9,000 | Dollar 89.27 | Euro 103.80 | GBP 117.77

As fatal crashes involving electric bus fleet rose tenfold from 1 to 11 by September 25, BMTC decides to get strict — drivers told to put their phones away, forbidden from using earphones

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD

Conductors to keep tabs on distracted drivers

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In a decisive move to curb rising accidents, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has ordered that electric bus drivers must refrain from using mobile phones, Bluetooth earphones, or ear pods, and they are prohibited from chatting or listening to music while driving. Interestingly, conductors have been asked to monitor compliance and report violations to higher authorities. While diesel bus drivers, directly employed by BMTC, were already barred from using mobile devices, outsourced EV drivers were previously outside the scope. However, with a sharp increase in accidents, BMTC is now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6>>

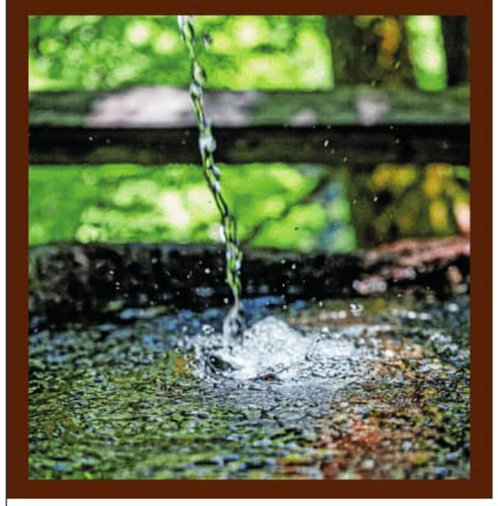
File photo of a recent protest by BMTC electric bus drivers

> **The sharp escalation (in accidents) underscores growing safety concerns around EV operations and highlights the need for stricter driver training, monitoring, and enforcement**
>
> —BMTC official

CITY / PAGE 2

SEEKING WATER

1,690 artificial recharge structures can help replenish city's drying underground aquifers



CITY / PAGE 5

BEST FRIENDS

Educational institutions in Bengaluru continue to care for stray dogs on campuses

6th Trade Fair and Conference for the Alcobev Sector

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THINGS TO DO

01 Blissful melody

Phoenix Marketcity is organising a soul-stirring musical performance by Radhika Das, the renowned London-based Kirtan artist, Bhakti Yoga teacher, and podcast host. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 28, 7 pm**

02 Voices united

The South Asian Symphony Orchestra returns to Bengaluru for an unforgettable evening built around one of humanity's most powerful musical statements—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with over 120 musicians on stage. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: Nov 29, 7 pm**

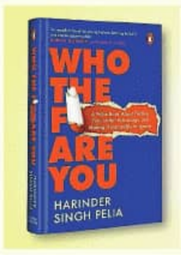
03 Weekend vibes

Kukdukoo Children's Festival is bringing a weekend of fun, laughter and magic, packed with spectacular activities for children and parents. **Where: Oakridge International School, Dommasandra; When: Nov 29 and 30, 10.45 am**

04 Craft carnival

'The Festival of Handmade' is bringing together over 200 groups from across the country in a vibrant and exciting market that showcases exquisite handicrafts. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: November 26 to 30**

05 Shelf help



Atta Galatta is organising a discussion on 'Who the F Are You?' by Harinder Singh Pelia. The book offers a sharp, practical guide to breaking out of professional invisibility by laying out clear steps on uncovering your strengths, building your brand, and presenting your value. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: November 29, 3 pm**

Cover story

Three drainage grid covers have been missing on Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, near Kanteerava Stadium, raising concerns over pedestrian safety and road maintenance.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Water diviners of Bengaluru

Groundwater authority urges formation of recharge structures, including check dams and percolation tanks across Bengaluru to replenish groundwater levels

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The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has recommended 1,690 artificial recharge structures for Bengaluru to replenish its drying underground aquifers and maintain its groundwater table. Out of these, 1,011 recharge structures, including check dams and percolation tanks, have been recommended in Bengaluru rural, and 679 structures have been recommended in Bengaluru urban district.

In Bengaluru rural, 464 structures in Devanahalli, 162 in Hoskote, 188 in Dodaballapura, 197 in Nelamagala have been suggested, and in urban areas, 107 structures in Bengaluru South, 343 in Bengaluru North, 18 in Bengaluru East, and 211 such structures to recharge groundwater in Anekal have been suggested.

Experts say that, given the depleting groundwater table of Bengaluru, CGWB's recommendation should be implemented immediately by the authorities concerned. They opine that structures such as check dams and percolation pits help improve groundwater recharge by slowing down or trapping surface runoff, especially during heavy rain.

"Check dams, for instance, impound water and give rainwater more time to percolate into the soil, replenishing groundwater aquifers. Given the high rate of urbanisation in Bengaluru, mostly the outskirts of the city,

leading to an increase in impervious surfaces, these structures should be created as per CGWB's recommendation," said a city-based hydrologist. A few months ago, CGWB had highlighted that the stage of extraction of groundwater in Bengaluru urban is 187 per cent, and in Bengaluru rural, it is 147 per cent.

The total annual extractable groundwater available for Bengaluru rural is 15,752.4 HAM, and the district is currently extracting 23,164.46 HAM. Similarly, the yearly extractable resource for Bengaluru urban is 28,565.58 HAM, but the current extraction is almost double, 53,332.51 HAM. While Bengaluru is extracting more than available, its recharge capacity is the worst across all 31 districts in Karnataka. CGWB has earlier stated that there is a need for proper ground water management and enhancement of storage capacity of aquifers, protection of ground water quality, and proper utilisation of ground water. To enhance the storage capacity of aquifers, the dewatered aquifers are to be recharged, for which artificial recharge structures like check dams, percolation tanks, point recharge structures, etc, have to be constructed.

The board has also recommended 38,886 recharge structures to be created across Karnataka to help replenish this vital resource.

UGC norms trigger job loss for many

The government first-grade colleges are witnessing a wave of distress as more than 6,000 long-serving guest lecturers, many of whom have taught for nearly 20 years, have lost their jobs for not meeting UGC-mandated qualifications. Acting on a High Court directive, the state has begun recruiting guest lecturers for the 2025-26 academic cycle strictly based on UGC eligibility norms for teaching the 2nd, 4th and 6th semesters. The hiring window closes on December 4, leaving thousands who lack the required credentials; 29,198 applicants this year effectively unemployed, while only 20,504 qualified candidates remain in the race.

Guest lecturers say the government has "snatched away their livelihood," pointing out that many of them began as part-time lecturers before the term was officially scrapped in 2003 to avoid future claims for job regularisation. With 6,904 losing work midway through the academic year and nearly 10,303 appointed temporarily just months ago, the crisis has triggered renewed protests. "If the government doesn't halt this recruitment, we will launch an indefinite hunger strike," warned a guest lecturer. What began decades ago as a stopgap, Rs 1,200-honorarium assignment has now become a livelihood cliffhanger for thousands caught between evolving academic norms and the absence of long-promised job security.

— BMB

First round BEd seat allotment out with Dec 5 deadline for candidates

The School Education Department has released the first round of BEd seat allotment for the 2025 academic year, kicking off the admission process for thousands of aspiring teachers. Candidates must log in with their user ID and password, download the challan, and pay the prescribed fee at any SBI branch by December 5. They must then report to their respective district nodal centres with original documents to collect the admission order and secure a seat at the allotted college within the stipulated deadline.

Students who want to skip the first allotment and try their luck in the second round must record their preference online between November 25 and December 5; failing to do so will leave them out of the next list altogether. The department will publish the college-wise seat matrix of the remaining vacancies on December 8. Those who either decline the first-round seat or have opted for the second round can re-enter their college choices between December 8 and 12 for the final allotment cycle. Further details are available on the department website.

— BMB

Cubbon Park flower festival to debut from today

The first ever flower show at Cubbon Park organised by the Horticulture Department will begin from Thursday and go on till December 7. Dr Shalini Rajneesh will inaugurate the 11-day event, which brings together nearly 50,000 vibrant flower pots from private nurseries and the department, displayed across key spots such as the Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar statue, the Bandstand and the Bal Bhavan precincts.

Visitors can also enjoy a rich lineup of cultural programmes including Bharatanatyam, folk dances, classical music and Dollu Kunita, with over a hundred nursery and food stalls set up for the crowds. The show, expected to draw more than two lakh visitors, runs daily from 6 am to 7 pm with tickets priced at Rs 30 for adults and Rs 10 for children, while school students enter free with ID and uniform.

— BMB

CRIME FILES

CCB arrests couple behind large-scale fake Nandini Ghee manufacturing unit

Racket damages reputation of trusted brand

Continuing their investigation into the adulterated Nandini ghee racket, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Sunday arrested a couple who allegedly ran a long-standing operation manufacturing and distributing spurious ghee across Karnataka and neighbouring states.

Earlier this month, CCB officials had raided Krishna Enterprises in Chamarajpet, identified as a key distribution point and arrested four people, including the owner, his son, and two employees, for supplying substandard ghee to retail stores and commercial establishments. Their interrogation led the police to the main accused.

A special team then raided the Mysuru residence of Shivakumar (45) and his wife Ramya (40), who are believed to be the primary operators of the racket. According to police, the couple had set up a full-fledged manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu, where they allegedly produced fake ghee using adulterated and low-quality ingredients before packing it under the Nandini label.

Investigators said the accused printed their own labels, packaging material, and stickers, and had invested lakhs of rupees in advanced machinery to run the operation. They also maintained a wide distribution network both within Karnataka and outside the state.

"This racket not only causes financial loss to the state but also damages the reputation of a trusted brand by flooding the market with substandard products," a police officer said.

CCB officials added that the couple are repeat offenders and had been booked by Mysuru City Police in a similar case last year.

Police have frozen their bank accounts and seized documents and equipment as they continue to trace the scale of the racket and the extent of distribution. **–BMB**

'Dowry death': Bizman poisons wife with mercury

The Attibele police have filed a case of dowry death against a city-based businessman, who allegedly injected his wife with mercury 10 months ago. The victim, Vidya M, who had been battling severe organ damage, died at Victoria Hospital on Tuesday.

Vidya was married to Basavaraju M for five years, and the couple have a four-year-old son. In her statement to police, recorded on video a day before she died, Vidya said Basavaraju had been harassing her since the day of their wedding, repeatedly calling her "mental". She alleged that he would lock her inside their home and tell neighbours she had psychological issues.

According to her dying declaration, the turning point came on February 26 this year, when Basavaraju allegedly injured her right leg while she was asleep. She woke the next morning in severe pain and managed to visit a private hospital. Tests ordered by the doctor confirmed the presence of mercury in her body, following which a biopsy also detected toxic levels. Though she began treatment immediately, her kidneys were severely affected and she required dialysis in March.

As her condition deteriorated, Vidya was shifted to Victoria Hospital. Based on the medico-legal intimation and her detailed statement, Attibele police initially registered a case of attempt to murder against Basavaraju and his father, Mariswamachar.

Following her death on Tuesday, the case has now been altered to dowry death. Police said they are awaiting the post-mortem report and will continue the investigation into the alleged poisoning and long-term harassment. **–BMB**

2 farmers killed after speeding truck rams tractor

Two men were killed after a speeding truck crashed into their tractor at Mallarabanawadi Cross in Nelamangala on Wednesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Premkumar and Ramesh, both residents of Gudemaranahalli and engaged in farming.

According to police, the incident occurred around 8.30 am when Ramesh, who was driving the tractor, attempted to take a right turn on a busy stretch without using any indicator. The truck driver, unable to anticipate the tractor's sudden turn, rammed into it at high speed from the opposite direction.

Both men died on the spot, police said.

The truck driver fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle. Police added that the negligence of the tractor driver is believed to have led to the mishap. The Nelamangala traffic police have registered a case. **–BMB**

Biker crushed by truck on Kunigal–B'luru Highway

A 22-year-old biker was killed and his female friend sustained serious injuries after a speeding truck ran over them on the Kunigal–Bengaluru highway late Tuesday night.

The deceased, Swaroop, a businessman, was travelling towards Bengaluru on a motorcycle. Around 1.30 am, he reportedly brushed into an auto-rickshaw, causing him and his pillion rider, Manasi, to fall onto the right side of the road. A truck approaching from behind ran over Swaroop, killing him on the spot.

Manasi suffered injuries and was rushed to a private hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. **–BMB**

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Bengaluru plans another tunnel to untangle Hebbal

Cut-and-cover Hebbal tunnel project expected to ease heavy peak-hour snarls, optimise corridor flow, support faster travel toward airport side

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Hebbal Junction, notorious for hosting some of Bengaluru's most relentless and long-standing traffic snarls, is set for another major infrastructure push aimed at easing the daily ordeal of motorists. Alongside the already proposed 16.74-km twin-tube tunnel originating near Esteem Mall, the government is now advancing a fresh plan: a 2.2-km tunnel connecting the Veterinary College campus to Hebbal Lake. The Detailed Project Report for this project, prepared by New Delhi–based Consultants for B-SMILE, aims to streamline movement for both airport-bound commuters and those entering the city through one of its tightest choke points.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Planned Hebbal tunnel seeks reduced pileups and improved airport-city traffic flow

Twin-tube design

Sources said the proposed tunnel comprises two parallel tubes stretching 2.2 kilometres, each 10.5 metres wide and configured to hold three lanes of 3.5 metres each. The tunnel is designed for safe operating speeds of up to 60 kmph, offering smoother and more predictable travel for those heading toward the Kempegowda International Airport. Beginning within the Veterinary College campus, the alignment moves toward the National Highway near Hebbal Lake and is set to include additional entry and exit points along Ballari Road, one of the city's most critical traffic corridors.

Cut-and-cover build

Instead of deploying tunnel-boring machines, engineers will rely on the cut-and-cover method, a technique that involves excavation along the existing service road, construction of the tunnel structure, and subsequent restoration of the surface. The DPR pegs the project cost at ₹1,385.28 crore, including ₹25 crore allotted for land acquisition and rehabilitation. The estimated construction period is 18 months. Authorities recently shifted responsibility for executing the project from B-Styl to the Bangalore Development Authority, signalling a move toward quicker coordination and consolidated oversight.

Why another tunnel

Despite earlier flyovers and ongoing large-scale mobility projects, Hebbal remains overwhelmed by vehicles converging from multiple directions. Officials pointed to everyday travel times that underline the scale of the problem: 28 minutes for the 2-km run from the flyover to Kempapura Cross, 26 minutes for the 3.5-km journey to Mehk Circle and

Sources said the proposed tunnel comprises two parallel tubes stretching 2.2 kilometres, each 10.5 metres wide and configured to hold three lanes of 3.5 metres each

22 minutes for the 3-km stretch from Sanjaynagar Main Road to Kempapura Cross. The new tunnel is intended to offer an uninterrupted passage for airport-bound traffic while easing pressure across neighbourhoods such as Ganganagar, RT Nagar and Sanjaynagar, ultimately promising both smoother urban movement and a more reliable connection to the airport.

GBA plans citywide makeover of flyover spaces

Most spaces beneath Bengaluru's flyovers remain dark, dirty and chronically neglected, often ending up as garbage corners instead of safe public areas. Now, the Greater Bengaluru Authority is pushing to tap Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to transform these stretches and upgrade footpaths along major corridors. During an inspection, Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said that, encouraged by CSR-led makeovers at Iblur and Carmelaram, officials have been instructed to replicate similar designs citywide with better lighting, cleaner layouts, themed public spaces and regular upkeep to reclaim underused zones for pedestrians.

Meanwhile, the authority is preparing to acquire six acres of forest land near SH-45 to build a connecting road aimed at easing congestion along the Varthur–Gunjur belt. Officials say the link will help decongest peak-hour traffic and improve last-mile connectivity, forming a key piece of Bengaluru's broader mobility overhaul. — BMB

Uniform maintenance charges made mandatory

In a significant ruling, the City Civil Court has held that apartment associations cannot charge higher maintenance fees based on the size of individual flats, directing them to levy a uniform amount on all residents. The judgment followed a petition by Arun Kumar Rao of CV Raman Nagar, who challenged a 2020 rule introduced by the Purva Seasons Owners' Association linking maintenance charges to flat area. The court struck down the rule, noting that amenities such as lifts, clubhouses, security and other shared facilities are used equally by all, yet owners of larger flats were bearing nearly 74% of the total upkeep—an approach it termed discriminatory. The order is likely to influence fee-sharing models across Bengaluru, where many complexes follow similar formulas. Legal experts say it reinforces the principle that maintenance must reflect shared usage, not property size. — BMB

K'taka schools face closures under Magnet Scheme

The AIDSO Karnataka State Committee has claimed over 40,000 government schools face closure under the Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) Magnet Scheme, contradicting state assurances that "not a single school will be closed."

The plan to create 6,000 Magnet Schools, one per Gram Panchayat, will force many smaller schools to merge. In the first phase, 800 schools have already been identified. Protests erupted in Honganooru after several village schools were ordered merged, raising concerns over travel for students and disruption to community-based education. — BMB

JP Park ward kickstarts India's digital census

Bengaluru's JP Park ward has become the testing ground for India's upcoming tech-driven census, with the mobile app designed for the nationwide exercise now being used on a trial basis.

A total of 83 enumerators and 16 supervisors have been deployed, supported by a ward-level nodal officer to oversee the process until November 30.

Officials said enumerators are making door-to-door visits within their assigned blocks, collecting preliminary household information entirely through the digital system. Senior officials from the Office of the Registrar General of India, including assistant directors Jitendra Sharma and Akash Devra, reviewed the trial operations in JP Park on Tuesday.

The Centre plans to conduct the full-scale national census in 2027, with extensive groundwork scheduled for 2026 relying heavily on technology.

To ensure the new mobile application performs smoothly in real-world conditions, pilot household listing is underway in select regions. Along with JP Park, 46 villages in Joida taluk and 27 villages in Gundlupet taluk are part of the trial run, marking a major step toward a fully digital, streamlined census process. — BMB

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Flyover obstruction

JP Nagar

At JP Nagar's Delmi Circle, the flyover blocks traffic light visibility. Motorists approaching from SLV Hotel near Ragigudda on 28th Main struggle. Signal should be relocated before junction.

Sanitation issue

Byrasandra

At 4th Cross, 4th Main, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, a house has faced a 20-day sanitary blockage. Despite repeated complaints to BWSSB and BBMP, the owner has taken no action.

Garbage concern

Yelahanka

Garbage has piled up near the back gate an Apartment in Yelahanka. Residents urge authorities to consider relocating the designated disposal site to prevent health hazards and inconvenience.

Colleges continue to care for strays

Academic establishments across city still look after stray dogs living on campus despite SC ruling

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Students from institutions across city say stray dogs on campus are like co-residents, existing in harmony and peace with other residents

Many educational institutions in Bengaluru are showing their compassionate streak despite the Supreme Court's recent order on stray dogs.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court (SC) had passed an order instructing municipal bodies to remove stray dogs from public premises such as schools, colleges, hospitals, and bus stands, and shift them to shelter homes.

However, colleges in the city have continued to care for stray dogs on campuses, which they consider their co-residents. They continue to love and nurture these animals, hoping that the local municipal body will never turn up on their campuses to take away their co-residents, who have been living in harmony and peace.

"We are continuing to feed the dogs, take care of their medical requirements, and spend time with them, which has become part of our routine. Their food is supplied by a vendor during the afternoon, and dogs are fed by a few caretakers hired by the college administration," said a student from a private college campus in North Bengaluru, adding that the dogs are fed in designated feeding spots every day, after which they return to rest.

The nearly 100-acre campus has around 50 stray dogs, with the majority neutered and vaccinated.

Students from the on-campus (unofficial) animal welfare club say the cost of food and medical care is borne by a group of around 100 students who pool in funds every month for this cause.

"We are living with these animals peacefully, and at no cost would we like them to be taken away. The dogs add a lot to our campus life. Most of the students love them and spend time with them daily. We hope GBA never comes to our campus to implement the SC's order," said another student from the campus.

Another institution in Electronic City is looking after 22 stray dogs on their campus. Their logic for doing so is simple — the dogs should stay on the campus because they were born there, and that is the only home they know.

"These dogs are part of the ecosystem. They were born here, and thus it is their natural right to live on the campus. We have learnt to co-exist with them and would like them to be here forever," said a student, who is part of a students' group managing the strays.

A few more educational institutions from other parts of the city, on the condition of anonymity, narrated similar stories of stray dog management and peaceful co-existence from their campuses.

"Not many on the campus know about the SC's order, and we want to keep it this way. Any attention towards the stray dogs will lead to them being taken to shelter homes, and we do not want that," said a student from an educational institution in the central business district area.

Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control commended students' efforts to retain dogs on campuses. "Stray dogs that are fed and taken care of pose no threat to society at large. It is heartwarming to see educational institutions leading from the front in showcasing compassion. Removing dogs from their area is never a good idea as it leads to other issues, including dogs coming in from other areas, and surge in bite cases," said Raghavan.

Couple booked over missing pet dog

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Bongo, the dog adopted by the couple

Puttenahalli police have registered an FIR against a couple residing in RBI Layout, based on a complaint lodged by Sarath Lal AS. The FIR was registered on October 23, 2025, under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, and Section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

According to the FIR, Anubhav Kabra and his wife Kriti Labh adopted a street dog named Bongo from Swarnima Nishant on August 21, 2021, agreeing to take responsibility for its care. The FIR notes that on October 23, 2025, at 9.45 am, Nishant called Kabra to enquire about the dog. The complaint alleges that although the couple had committed to looking after Bongo, they later allowed the dog to leave.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Nishant said she has been searching for Bongo tirelessly and is appealing to citizens, feeders, animal lovers, and community volunteers across Bengaluru to watch for any dog resembling him.

"This case also raises an important public message: abandoning a pet is a punishable crime under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and relevant municipal laws. Once a family adopts an animal, they hold full responsibility for its safety and care," she said.

Nationwide campaign urges SC to rethink order on stray dogs

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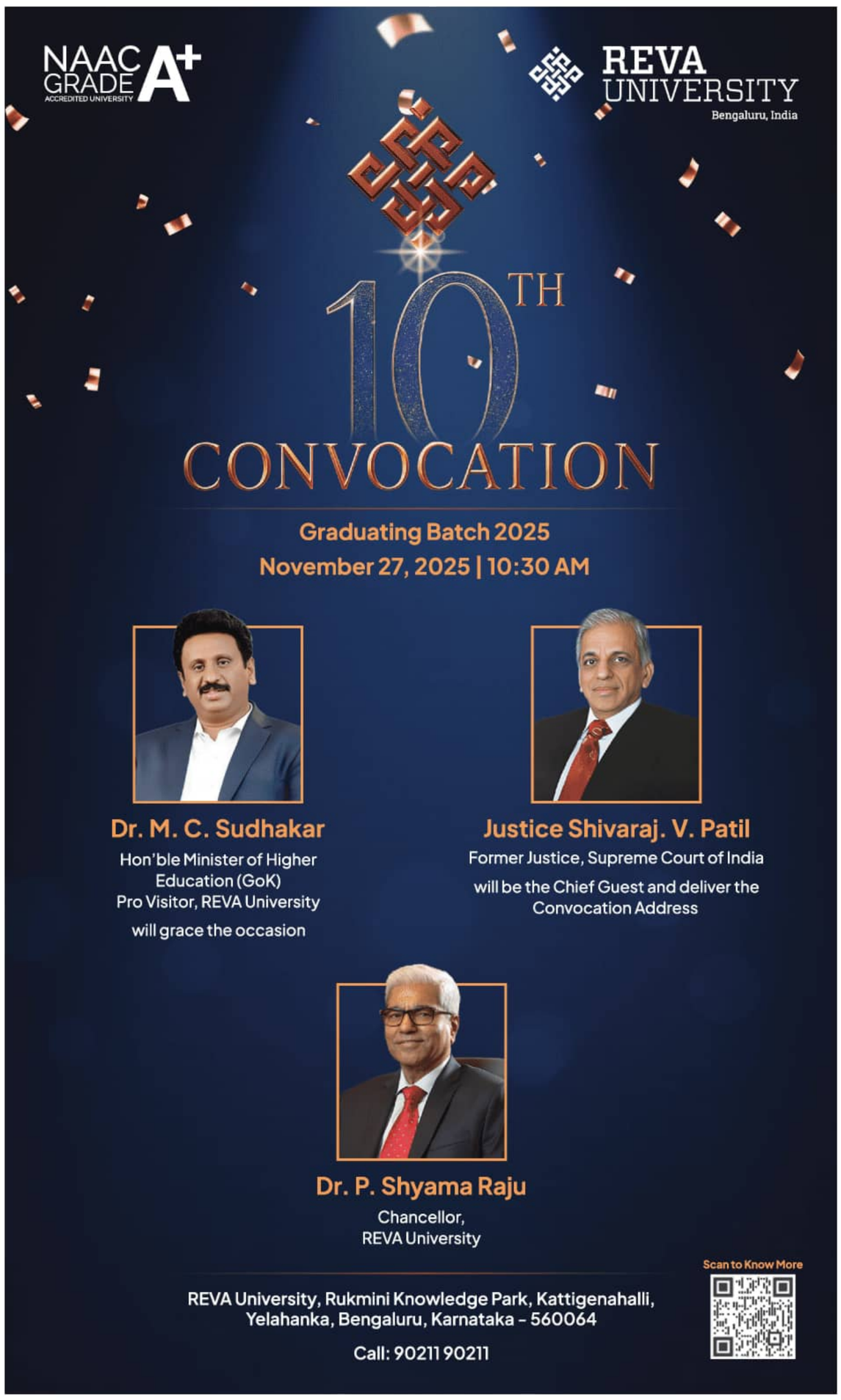
Animal lovers across the country are preparing to walk to their nearest General Post Offices on November 29, 2025, to post handwritten letters to the Supreme Court of India. The campaign, launched by AnimalWrites.in, seeks to persuade the court to reconsider its recent order directing the removal of community dogs from schools, hospitals and other public spaces.

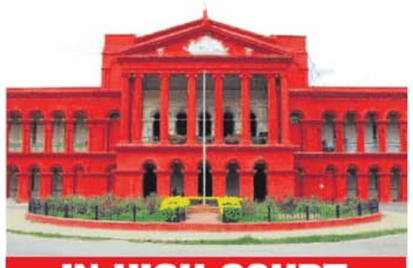
The initiative aims to transform the simple act of mailing a letter into a powerful and visible expression of public concern. Framed not as a protest but as a peaceful national movement for justice and empathy, the campaign urges the Supreme Court to reconsider the removal of community dogs. Organisers highlight that India has no government-run shelters capable of housing millions of street dogs, making large-scale removal impractical and inhumane. Forced relocation, they warn, will only cause immense suffering and disrupt communities that care for these animals. Instead, they call for humane, sustainable solutions such as the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme and community driven care, urging the court to adopt approaches that ensure coexistence rather than conflict.

The campaign in India, which began in Delhi, is gaining support from organisations across multiple states.

Citizens from Bengaluru are also planning to display support for the campaign. Priya Chetty-Rajagopal from CJ Memorial Trust said, "I know justice is blind but can it hear the lakhs of collective voices that are going out to desperately protect its dogs?" She said that the campaign by Animalwrites.in is a peaceful action to urge the Supreme Court to reconsider its order on the removal of community dogs from schools, hospitals, and other public spaces. "We are turning the nostalgia of the postal system into a potent tool of modern democracy. Imagine hundreds of people, simultaneously, across the city, at the heart of our communication infrastructure, the General Post Office and its major branches, each holding an envelope addressed to the highest seat of justice," said Chetty-Rajagopal.



OBC candidates face 42% eligibility requirement


IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has disposed of a public interest litigation challenging Karnataka State Law University's (KSLU) decision to set 42% as the minimum qualifying marks for Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates seeking admission to the three-year LL B programme without issuing a gazette notification. The petition, filed by Yankappa R Sakre, alleged that the requirement was illegal, arbitrary, and beyond the university's powers.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha concluded that while the petitioner's challenge "cannot be faulted," it did not justify setting aside KSLU's eligibility norms. The dispute arose from KSLU's admission notification dated July 19, 2025, for the 2025-26 academic year, which required OBC candidates to secure at least 42% aggregate marks, compared to 40% for SC/ST applicants.

The petitioner argued that OBC candidates should not face higher thresholds than SC/ST students, highlighting that the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) mandates a uniform 40% minimum for both categories. During the hearing, the bench examined Rule 7 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, which specifies minimum marks for LL B admissions. The court noted that the Bar Council of India (BCI) has the power to fix minimum percentages, but the benchmark "cannot be below 42 percent marks for OBC candidates and 40 percent for SC/ST candidates."

Ultimately, the bench held it could not interfere with KSLU's 42% requirement for OBC applicants. However, it left open a broader question of whether other colleges could independently set minimum thresholds for OBC candidates, suggesting that this matter may require separate examination in the future. **–BMB**

PhonePe appeals police transaction data notice

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the State Government on an appeal filed by digital payment intermediary PhonePe. The appeal challenges a single-judge order that had refused to interfere with a police notice directing the company to furnish transaction details and full account credentials of its users and merchants during a criminal investigation. A division bench led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha sought the State's response and scheduled the matter for further hearing on February 12, 2026.

The single-judge order, dated April 29, had dismissed PhonePe's petition, observing that "The duty to protect data must yield, where public interest and criminal investigation intersect." Advocate Nitin Ramesh, representing PhonePe, argued that the Bankers' Books Evidence Act of 1891 provides statutory protection to UPI intermediaries. He contended that such information can be sought only with court permission and that the single judge failed to consider this legal safeguard.

PhonePe had challenged a notice issued under Section 91 of the CrPC, which authorises police or courts to demand documents deemed necessary for investigation. The prosecution countered that, with cybercrimes on the rise, investigators must have access to essential data to ensure effective probes. It cited Central Government guidelines framed under Section 87 of the IT Act and alleged that PhonePe had shielded merchants involved in cricket betting.

The single judge underscored the increasing prevalence of cyber offences, noting that "swift, targeted and effective response is need of the hour." The court stressed that privacy should be respected but "cannot be wielded as a shield against lawful investigation." It rejected PhonePe's reliance on the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, clarifying that inspections under the Act occur only after a court order. The court further interpreted Section 2(4) of the 1891 Act, stating that notices under Section 91 of the CrPC issued during investigations can be construed as falling within its scope.

The case highlights the legal tension between data privacy and the need for authorities to access critical digital records during criminal investigations, especially in the context of cybercrime and digital payments. **–BMB**

Safety training, fixed pay and other measures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

relying on conductors to act as a frontline monitoring force.

The city's electric bus fleet has witnessed a staggering 483% surge in accidents over the past three years, raising serious safety concerns. Reported cases jumped from six in 2023–24 to 29 in 2024–25, and further to 35 by September 2025. Fatal crashes alone rose tenfold, from 1 to 11 in the same period. Many of these accidents were attributed to rash or distracted driving, including mobile phone use behind the wheel and driving under the influence of alcohol. "The sharp escalation underscores growing safety concerns around EV operations and highlights the urgent need for stricter driver training, monitoring, and enforcement," said a BMTC official.

Over ₹25 crore in penalties

Technical failures in the EV fleet have also added to the chaos. BMTC has imposed fines exceeding ₹25 crore on four private operators under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model due to repeated performance failures. Persistent battery issues—including rapid discharge, overheating, and malfunctioning electronics such as AC systems, braking, and suspension—have resulted in frequent breakdowns and disrupted service. Chief Traffic Manager (Operations) G.T. Prabhakar Reddy confirmed the fines: NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd — ₹9.8 crore, Switch Mobility — ₹3 crore, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd — ₹11.99 crore, and OHM Global Mobility Pvt Ltd — ₹67 lakh.

Mobile phone use behind the wheel said to be one of the reasons for rising accidents

The performance issues were flagged during a high-level review involving the four private operators and officials from the Union Heavy Industries Ministry. BMTC instructed operators to address battery-related problems, deploy trained drivers, improve driver management, and increase staffing levels to ensure uninterrupted services. Operators have reportedly responded positively and promised corrective measures.

Training and safety initiatives

Following the alarming accident trends, BMTC has started intensive three-day training sessions for EV drivers at the Vaddarahalli centre. The modules cover stress management, health and safety, traffic rules, and driving protocols under varying weather conditions. So far, 150 drivers have completed the training, aimed at reducing accident risk and improving overall road safety.

To enhance accountability and reduce financial stress on drivers, BMTC will introduce fixed monthly salary dates for outsourced EV bus drivers. Previously, payments were made on varying dates each month, often causing delays. The new system ensures timely remuneration and encourages better operational discipline among drivers.

A BMTC official said, "With these measures, strict enforcement of mobile bans, conductor monitoring, operator penalties, driver training, and salary standardisation—BMTC is taking a comprehensive approach to curb accidents and improve service reliability. As Bengaluru's EV fleet continues to expand, these steps aim to instil discipline, accountability, and safety across the city's electric bus network."

One-click access to key land records

In a major relief for farmers, the Revenue Department is set to deliver four essential land documents in one go — ending repeated office visits and middlemen hassles. Starting December, a farmer applying for a pahani will receive, on a single consolidated sheet, the pahani, its reverse-side podi map, the crucial Akar Bandh and mutation details. What once required visits to multiple offices — from the ADLR for maps to the tahsildar for Akar Bandh and the sub-registrar for mutation — will now be available at Karnataka One, Nada Kacheri, Grama One and Bapuji Service Centres for just ₹25.

Officials say nearly 80% of podi map digitalisation is complete, and the upgraded "Bhoomi-2" platform will soon allow all four records to be generated at the click of a button. The reform promises big gains: no middlemen, no separate payments and no 20–30 day approval delays. Farmers will save time, money and effort, while automatic mutation updates are already helping speed up ownership entries. The government is also exploring adding Encumbrance Certificates (EC) to the bundle — bringing crucial land records directly to farmers' fingertips. **–BMB**

Saturday set for crucial Congress verdict

The leadership tug-of-war in the Karnataka Congress has entered its most decisive stretch yet, with the AICC high command indicating that the long-pending "power-sharing" script may finally reach its climax this Saturday. After three days of quiet but crucial stock-taking in Bengaluru, AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge has sent a clear message to both camps: maintain unity, avoid public statements and prepare for a decision anchored in the May 18, 2023 power-sharing framework. With both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar publicly stating they will abide by whatever the high command decides, the political temperature has cooled — but the suspense has only grown.

Priyank Kharge's discreet trip to Delhi, closed-door meetings with senior leaders and his delivery of "final instructions" to both camps have grounded all planned pressure visits to the capital. Legislators camping in Delhi have also been asked to return. Behind the scenes, Sonia Gandhi's availability from November 28 and late-night backchannel conversations — including a quiet visit by Minister Zameer Ahmed to the DyCM's residence — indicate the script is tightening. With Parliament meeting on December 1 and the state Assembly session beginning December 8, the high command wants the drama concluded before the political stage lights come on. All eyes now turn to Saturday. **–BMB**

Headmasters pay egg costs, reject promotions

A state-run nutrition programme meant to provide eggs or bananas to schoolchildren is unexpectedly becoming a financial burden for headmasters, prompting many teachers to decline promotions or avoid taking charge as acting heads. Schools currently receive ₹5 per egg and ₹1 for cooking and handling, but egg prices have climbed to ₹6.90, leaving a ₹1.90 gap that headmasters say they are forced to pay from their own pockets. In schools with around 500 students, the shortfall touches nearly ₹24,700 a month, pushing teachers to openly say they would rather avoid the headmaster's post than absorb the "egg loss."

Across Karnataka, 52,618 government and aided schools supply eggs or bananas to 51.61 lakh children, requiring 25–30 lakh eggs daily. Despite repeated appeals to increase the sanctioned rate or shift the responsibility to NGOs, teachers say the government has shown "little willingness" to intervene. The crisis is worsened by the fact that 40–50% of headmaster posts remain vacant, and acting heads in schools with fewer than 400 students are not entitled to charge allowance — leaving teachers even more reluctant to shoulder the role. **–BMB**

Tourism workers plead for safaris, farmers say not yet

Travel operators say winter is peak tourism season in K'taka, want resumption of services in Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves

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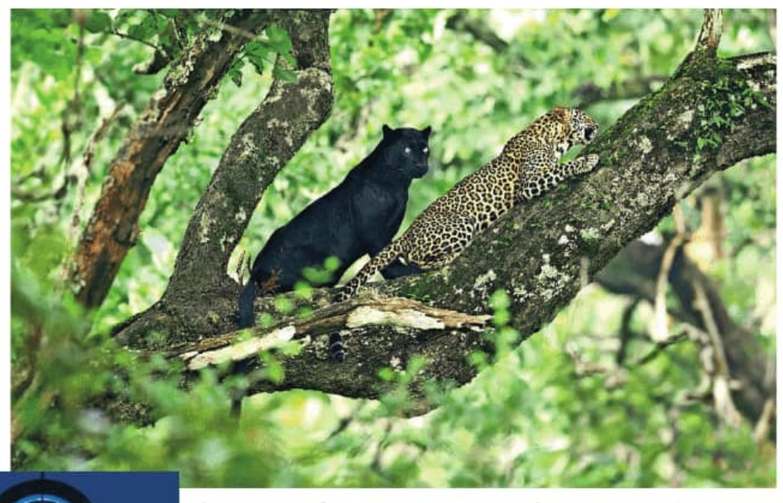

File photo of a black panther with a leopard on a tree top in Antharasanthe range at the Nagarahole tiger sanctuary

IN FOCUS
Jungle safaris

Travel operators in Karnataka have urged the state government to resume safari activities in the Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves, saying the suspension has severely affected the livelihoods of thousands who depend on tourism. They argue that the halt in operations has created an economic vacuum for travel agents, guides, drivers, resort staff, and several others whose income is linked to wildlife tourism.

Safaris were suspended earlier this month after three farmers were killed and another severely injured in a series of tiger attacks. Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre ordered the halt to reduce human disturbance in wildlife habitats and to redirect staff towards intensive combing operations. Additional teams were also deployed in forest-edge villages to track tiger movement and prevent further incidents. Trekking in vulnerable areas was also suspended, adding to the concerns of those in the tourism sector.

Local travel associations say the impact of the shutdown has been widespread. Many operators report declining business, mounting losses, and empty resorts that previously relied heavily on tourist arrivals. Some owners who had taken loans to expand their facilities now fear they may not be able to repay them due to the sudden fall in revenue.

Travel stakeholders maintain that safari operations have been conducted with strict adherence to safety and environmental norms. They emphasise that tourism and wildlife conservation can coexist, provided clear guidelines and responsible practices are followed. They have proposed resuming safaris under strengthened safety protocols and updated operating procedures.

"The tourism sector in Karnataka is already facing several challenges. Due to various reasons, the number of tourists visiting the state has significantly declined. In such a situation, the decision to completely halt jungle safaris and other tourism activities in protected forest areas citing the reason of possible human–wildlife conflict is, in our opinion, not appropriate," said K Radhakrishna Holla, President, Karnataka State Travel Owners Association (R).

"It is understandable that during summer, entry to forest areas is restricted due to water scarcity, extreme temperatures, and the risk of forest fires. However, winter is the peak tourism season in Karnataka. Imposing a complete ban during this period severely affects tourism as well as the livelihoods of thousands of families dependent on it. A large number of people involved in the travel industry—drivers, guides, booking staff, jeep operators and many other grassroots workers — depend entirely on jungle safari services for their daily living. Today, their livelihood has come to a standstill," he added.

"The jungle safaris must be resumed immediately, with strict adherence to safety guidelines and by operating only fully safe and certified vehicles, ensuring controlled and regulated entry. This is the only fair and balanced approach that protects both wildlife safety and the livelihood of thousands of families who depend on this sector," he explained.

Farmers threaten protest

Growing speculation about the resumption of safaris has, however, triggered strong opposition from farmers living around the tiger reserves. They warned that if the government moves ahead with reopening safari activities, they will launch large-scale protests and even lay siege to Forest Department offices.

Leaders of the State Sugarcane Cultivators Association, including Atahalli Devaraj and Baradanapura Nagaraj, argued that human–wildlife conflict has not diminished and that villages bordering the reserves continue to face danger. They said restarting safaris while combing operations are still underway would be reckless and insensitive to local realities.

The farmers accused the political establishment of prioritising the interests of wealthy resort owners and investors with stakes in the tourism industry.

CLOSERHOME

Ahmedabad to host 2030 CWG

Ahmedabad was formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday, paving the way for the multi-sport event's return to India after two decades and giving impetus to the country's audacious plan of becoming an Olympic host in 2036.
Commonwealth Sport's general assembly of 74 members put a seal of approval on India's bid after Ahmedabad was recommended as the proposed host of the centenary edition its Executive Board last month. India last hosted the CWG in 2010 in Delhi.
The Executive Board's recommendation followed a process of bid examination overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee.
"India brings scale, youth, ambition, rich culture, enormous sporting passion and relevance...We start our next century for the Commonwealth Games in good health," said Dr Donald Rukare, President of Commonwealth Sport.
The decision also bolstered India's ambition to be an Olympic host in 2036, which is also proposed to be held in the Gujarat capital. –PTI

NHRC notice on halal food: No such provision, says Rlys

There is no official provision for selling Halal-certified food in trains, the Railway Board said on Wednesday in response to a notice from the National Human Rights Commission over the issue.
The NHRC issued the notice to the Railway Board on a complaint which alleged that Indian Railways serves only halal-processed meat in non-vegetarian meals, which creates unfair discrimination and causes human-rights violations.
"Indian Railways and IRCTC follow Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines for their food products, a senior Railway Board official said.
"There is no official provision for serving Halal-certified food on Indian Railways," he added.
The Board officials said that the similar issue was raised before the Chief Information Commission (CIC) recently by an applicant who had sought information under the Right to Information Act if halal-processed meat is served in non-vegetarian meals in trains.
The Board made its stand before the CIC that no halal-certified food is served. –PTI

INBRIEF

Blackbuck death: Report sought from Chief Wildlife Warden

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has sought a report from Karnataka's Chief Wildlife Warden on the death of 31 blackbucks at Kittur Rani Channamma Zoological Park in Belagavi.
CZA, in a letter written to the Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment, Karnataka, has asked for the report on the incident within 15 days of issuance of the letter (November 26).
This is after a written representation was made to the Member Secretary of CZA by a citizen who raised concerns about crucial early warning signs that were overlooked by zoo authorities, resulting in delays in implementing appropriate containment, isolation, and disease control measures.
As many as 31 blackbucks in Kittur Rani Channamma Zoological Park were reported dead last week, following which, the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department of Karnataka clarified that the deaths were caused by a bacterial infection, with symptoms consistent with haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS). –BMB

Identify 'Manuvadis' who oppose Constitution: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday called upon people to identify 'anti-constitutional Manuwadis' who favour the 'Manusmriti' over the Constitution.
Siddaramaiah warned that an "unwritten Manusmriti" governed the country before Dr B R Ambedkar's Constitution came into force.
He was speaking here after inaugurating the 'Constitution Day Celebration – 2025'.
"... The anti-human and anti-equality rules in the Manusmriti had no place in Ambedkar's Constitution. That is why Manuwadis oppose our Constitution," the Chief Minister said.
Manuwadis are those who believe in 'Manusmriti' (ancient Indian text based on Hindu tradition)
Building an equal society and eliminating inequality is the aspiration of our Constitution and Ambedkar, he said.
Siddaramaiah reminded the gathering that "we the people of INDIA" is the basic mantra of the Constitution. –PTI

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Academic on blacklist: Delhi HC seeks Centre's reply

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response on a plea by India-born British academic Nitasha Kaul challenging an order which cancelled her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) and blacklisted her entry to India.

Justice Sachin Datta issued notice to the central government on the main petition as well as the interim application seeking a stay on the operation of the OCI cancellation order.

As an interim relief, Kaul also sought permission to be allowed to enter India for three weeks to visit her aged and ailing mother.

The court listed the matter for further hearing in January.

Kaul, an international scholar and a professor of International Relations at the University of Westminster, said she has been repeatedly targeted for her critical academic writings and public engagement, without being provided with specific allegations or evidence warranting such actions and that the authorities have passed non-speaking orders. —PTI

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I, Prashantha Maradi Srinivas, s/o Srinivasa Maradi Ganesh rao r/o #SF-13,sai krishna elegancy,5th main road, spoorthinagara arehalli, B'luru-560061 have changed my name to Prashanth M S.

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I, **K.V.SWETHA** dependent wife of A N NIRANJAN presently residing at Achepalli Village, Neeragantipalli Post, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka-561207. I have changed my from **K.V.SWETHA** to **SWETHA K.V** date of Birth is 20th May 1987 sworn before **Y Lakshmipathy Reddy,** Advocate & Notary, Bagepalli vide affidavit No IN-**KA0578122 3763612X** dated : 26/11/2025

I, PRIYANKA (Old Name), W/o Mohammed Kasim Zia, Residing at No. 496/16, Ground Floor 5th A Main 15th Cross Lakkasandra Extension Wilson Garden Bengaluru - 560030, have changed my name to ZAARA HAYAT, (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 26/11/2025 Before Notary R.Basavaraja Bangalore.

I Naveen Kumar krishnojirao R/o No 14, 1st main, 2nd cross, Byraveshwara nagara, Bengaluru-58, Have changed my name to Naveen Kumar krishnajirao.

I Kenneth Bright Sagayaraj S/O, Sagayaraj R/o No.1, Anthony Nicholas Street, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore have changed my name to Kenneth Bright.

I Adeep Sohal Arora D/O, Gurraj Singh Sohal R/o 5022 Tower 5, Prestige Garden Bay Ivri Road, Yelahanka 560064 have changed my name to Adeep Sohal.

I, Soorashetty Yeriswamy s/o Soorashetty Veereshappa R/o #1319, Girija Nivas, 2nd Cross KHB Colony Govindaraj Nagar, Basaveshwaranagar B'lore-560079 have changed my name to Soorashetty Yariswamy.

J Satya Prasad S/o Late J Upendrachar R/o 103, Navarathna Kutira, 4th A Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, Bangalore - 50 changed my name as Joish Satya Prasad

I, Uday K N R/o No 80 Rajesh Agarwal Building Kanaka Layout , Kuduregere Colony ,bangalore Urban Karnataka 562123 have changed my minor daughter's name from Tanviha U to Rugveda Uday.

I, Soorashetty Yeriswamy S/o Soorashetty Veereshappa R/o 1319 , Girija Nivas , 2nd Cross Govindaraj Nagar ,Basaveshwar Nagar, B'luru-560079 have changed my name to Soorashetty Yariswamy

I, Purushothaman Imbrangattayil S/o Madhavan Imbranghattil Karappakutti R/o No.12, 5th Cross, Thayappa Garden, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru-560076, Have Changed My Name to Purushothaman Imbranghattil Madhavan for All Purposes.

I, Janaki Latha, D/o Velayudhan Pillai Rajasekharan Nair, 1702-Sobha Mayflower, Sarjapur Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bangalore 560103 declare that Janaki L and Janaki Latha name belongs to one and the same person

I S Sruthi R/o shankar shamil opp G B N Road madhugiri tq Tumkur - 32, Have changed my name to Shruthi S for all the purpose.

I Baby R/o No 14, 1st main, 2nd cross, Byraveshwara nagara, Bengaluru-58, Have changed my name to B baby bai for All purpose.

I, Satendra Kumar Singh s/o Ramjatan Singh R/o 7/4, Surya nilayam, 2nd cross, Pooja garden, K Channasandra, Kalkere, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Satendr Singh. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, FARHANA KHADAR (Old Name) W/o Rahamath Ulla Khan. K, resident of No. 2/2, 11th Cross, Padarayanapura, Bengaluru- 560026 have changed my name to FARHANA (New Name) Vide affidavit dated: 24/11/2025 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Shruthi C S R/o 576C, F main, Shanthinikethan Layout, Arekere, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name to Shruthi P A

I, RUCHI ANKUJ MITTAL Resident of No 68, 3d Cross, Sonnappa Layput, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Hebbal, Bangalore- 560024 have changed my name to RUCHI MITTAL vide Affidavit dated 24.11.2025. sworn before notary S R Ravikumar , Bangalore

I, Sumathi Shivakumar W/o Shivakumar SV R/o 556,1st floor,1st Block,3rd Stage Manjunath Nagar B'lore-560010 have changed my name to Sumathi Mani

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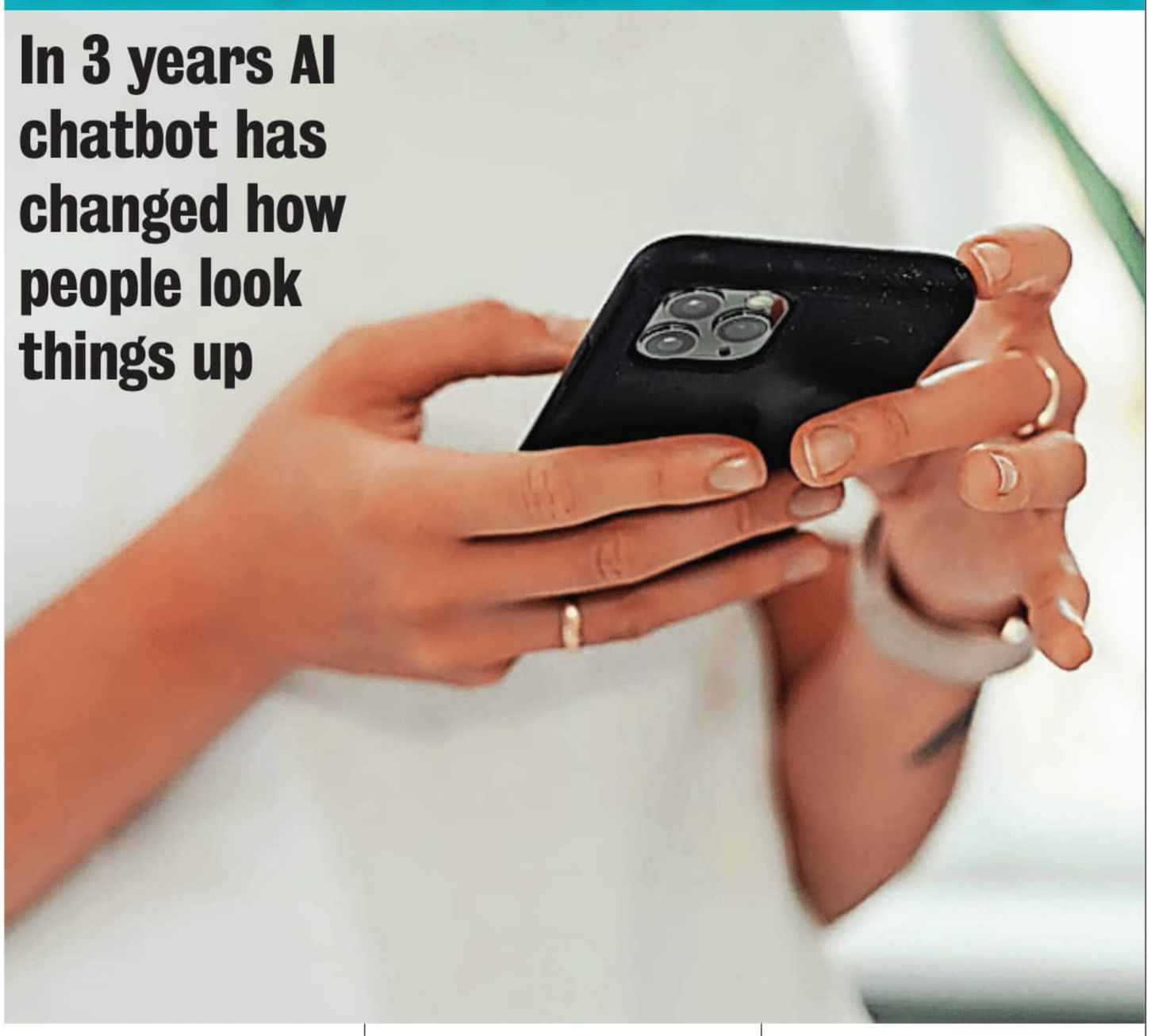


Three years ago, if someone needed to fix a leaky faucet or understand inflation, they usually did one of three things: typed the question into Google, searched YouTube for a how-to video or shouted desperately at Alexa for help.

Today, millions of people start with a different approach: They open ChatGPT and just ask.

I'm a professor and director of research impact and AI strategy at Mississippi State University Libraries. As a scholar who studies information retrieval, I see that this shift of the tool people reach for first for finding information is at the heart of how ChatGPT has changed everyday technology use.

Change in searching

The biggest change isn't that other tools have vanished. It's that ChatGPT has become the new front door to information. Within months of its introduction on Nov 30, 2022, ChatGPT had 100 million weekly users. By late 2025, that figure had grown to 800 million. That makes it one of the most widely used consumer technologies on the planet.

Surveys show that this use isn't just curiosity – it reflects a real change in behavior. A 2025 Pew Research Centre study found that 34 per cent of US adults have used ChatGPT, roughly double the share found in 2023. Among adults under 30, a clear majority (58 per cent) have tried it. An AP-NORC poll reports that about 60 per cent of US adults who use AI say they use it to search for information, making this the most common AI use case. The number rises to 74 per cent for the under-30 crowd.

Traditional search engines are still the backbone of the online information ecosystem, but the kind of searching people do has shifted in measurable ways since ChatGPT entered the scene. People are changing which tool they reach for first.

For years, Google was the default for everything from "how to reset my router" to "explain the debt ceiling." These basic informational queries made up a huge portion of search traffic. But these quick, clarifying, everyday "what does this mean" questions are the ones ChatGPT now answers faster and more cleanly than a page of links.

And people have noticed. A 2025 US consumer survey found that 55 per cent of respondents now use OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's Gemini AI chatbots about tasks they previously would have asked Google search to help them with, with even higher usage figures for the UK. Another analysis of more than 1 billion search sessions found that traffic from generative AI platforms is growing 165 times faster than traditional searches, and about 13 million US adults have already made generative AI their go-to tool for online discovery.

This doesn't mean people have stopped "Googling," but it means ChatGPT has peeled off the kinds of questions for which users want a direct explanation instead of a list of links. Curious about a policy update? Need a definition? Want a polite way to respond to an uncomfortable email? ChatGPT is faster, feels more conversational and feels more definitive.

At the same time, Google isn't standing still. Its search results look different than they did three years ago because Google started weaving its AI system Gemini directly into the top of the page. The "AI Overview" summaries that appear above traditional search links now instantly answer many simple questions – sometimes accurately, sometimes less so.

But either way, many people never scroll past that AI-generated snapshot. This fact combined with the impact of ChatGPT are the reasons the number of "zero-click" searches has surged. One report using Similarweb data found that traffic from Google to news sites fell from over 2.3 billion visits in mid-2024 to under 1.7 billion in May 2025, while the share of news-related searches ending in zero clicks jumped from 56 per cent to 69 per cent in one year.

Google search excels at pointing to a wide range of sources and perspectives, but the results can feel cluttered and designed more for clicks than clarity. ChatGPT, by contrast, delivers a more focused and conversational response that prioritises explanation over ranking. The ChatGPT response can lack the source transparency and multiple viewpoints often found in a Google search.

In terms of accuracy, both tools can occasionally get it wrong. Google's strength lies in letting users cross-check multiple sources, while ChatGPT's accuracy depends heavily on the quality of the prompt and the user's ability to recognise when a response should be verified elsewhere.

(By Deborah Lee, Mississippi State University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study describes 5 phases when brain rewires itself to support new ways of thinking

The human brain goes through five major eras of structural changes over a lifetime -- marked by turning points at ages nine, 32, 66 and 83 -- as it rewires to support varied ways of thinking as one grows, matures and ultimately declines, a study has suggested.

Age nine is when communications between brain networks developed since birth transition to the adolescent phase, which then lasts up to age 32, researchers led by those from the UK's University of Cambridge explain.

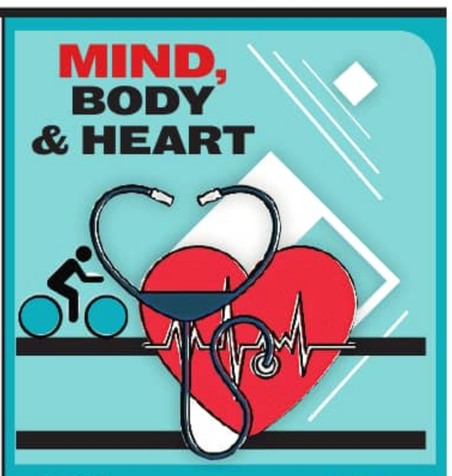
Early thirties is when the brain's neural wiring shifts into "adult mode" -- the longest era lasting over three decades and marked by a stabilising of the brain's architecture. Age 32 is also the "strongest topological turning point" of the entire lifetime, they said.

Age 66 was found to signal the start of an "early ageing", and age 83 that of a "late ageing" stage of brain structure.

The findings published in the journal Nature Communications "help us understand why some brains develop differently at key points in life, whether it be learning difficulties in childhood, or dementia in our later years," lead researcher Alexa Mousley, a graduate student at the University of Cambridge's cognition and brain sciences unit, said.

"These eras provide important context for what our brains might be best at, or more vulnerable to, at different stages of our lives," Mousley said.

The lead researcher added that the study is the first to identify major phases of how brain wiring changes across a human's lifespan. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Paired brain activity

Brains of two people collaborating on a shared task might process information in a similar manner, with neural activity aligning more as they continue working together, a study has found.

Shared thinking

Twenty-four pairs of people were asked to categorise shapes and patterns appearing on a computer screen, and had to decide how they would do so ahead of the task.

Researchers from Western Sydney University in Australia then asked each pair to sit back-to-back and work to categorise one shape after another.

Electroencephalograms were used to find out how brain activity aligned between pairs.

Findings published in the journal PLOS Biology reveal that during the first 45-180 milliseconds of a shape appearing on the screen, everyone in the study group showed a similar brain activity, possibly as a result of looking at the same pattern on-screen, the researchers said.

Distinction in pairs

However, after 200 milliseconds, brain activity aligned only in pairs that were actively working together, as each pair worked to sort the pattern according to their own rules.

"Importantly, alignment after 200 milliseconds strengthened with practice and was unique to real pairs, driven by shared representations associated with, and extending beyond, the categorisation rules they formed," authors said.

Collaborative lens

Collaboration among humans can significantly shape how one perceives and interprets the world.

"Whether the groups we belong to are based on culture, profession, social circles, or a common interest, they provide a shared context, set of values, and ways of interpreting incoming information, which can facilitate communication and joint activities across our society," the researchers said in the study. -PTI

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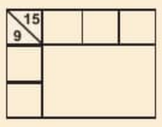
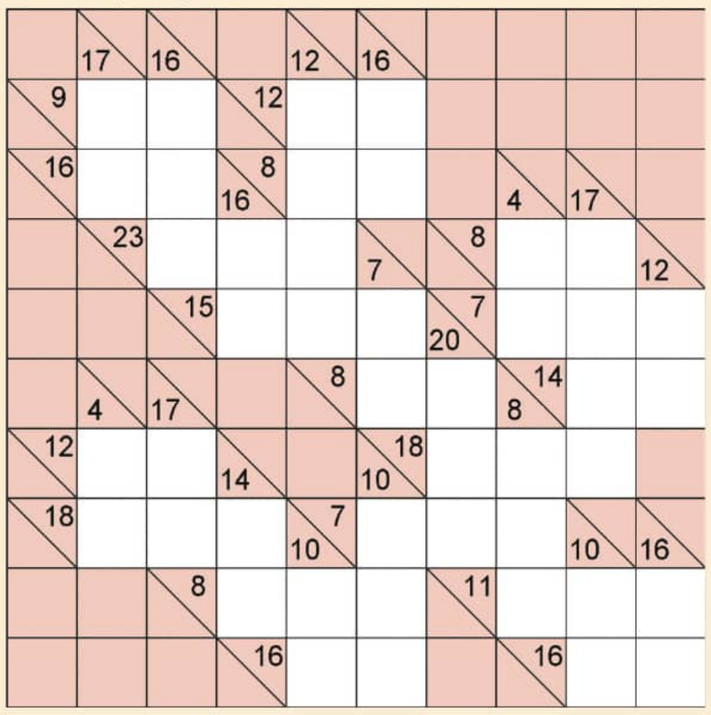
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

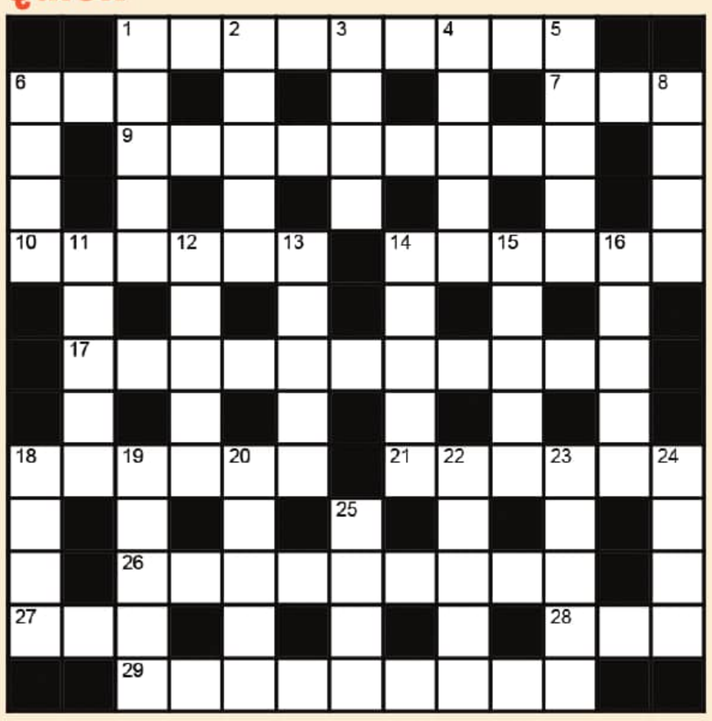
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Residential area located between Hosur Road and Sarjapur Road (3,6)
6 Greek letter (3)
7 Psychic power (3)
9 Fan (9)
10 ___ ___ the Good Book (Biblical quote) (2,4)
14 Religious house (6)
17 Lavish; wasteful (11)
18 Despot (6)
21 Protect from harm (6)
26 Venetian boatman (9)
27 Colourful carp (3)
28 Superlative suffix (3)
29 A polite way of asking permission, youll agree ? (2,3,4)

DOWN

1 Pipes used for watering plants etc. (5)
2 Give back a loan (5)
3 Vast age (4)
4 External (5)
5 ___ firma : dry land or firm ground? (5)
6 Outer edges (4)
8 Manoeuvre (4)
11 __ __ one : singly? (3,2)
12 Sicilian nymph–"a neat" change? (5)
13 Begin (5)
14 Makes bubbles (5)
15 Indias cricket trophy (5)
16 Honey badger (5)
18 Lecture (4)
19 Inflexible (5)
20 ___ Sinatra : Franks daughter? (5)
22 Caribbean republic (5)
23 Dog ___ : like the folded page corner of a book ? (5)
24 Money owed (4)
25 Playback singer ___ Nigam (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS W

MP QZJM Y NVAANP PHPZC
AVDP MP OJ UJA AYSP
YOHYUAYQP JG FJDPWJOCF
MPYSUPFF.

Linemaro

(Steps on some ice) Now that the ice is broken, what is your name?

Mindchow

When the middle is well and good, the past is repaired and the future prepared

Joke of the day

Chef: A man with a big enough vocabulary to give the soup a different name every day

Loop

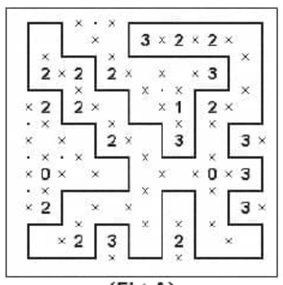
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

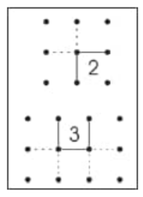
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

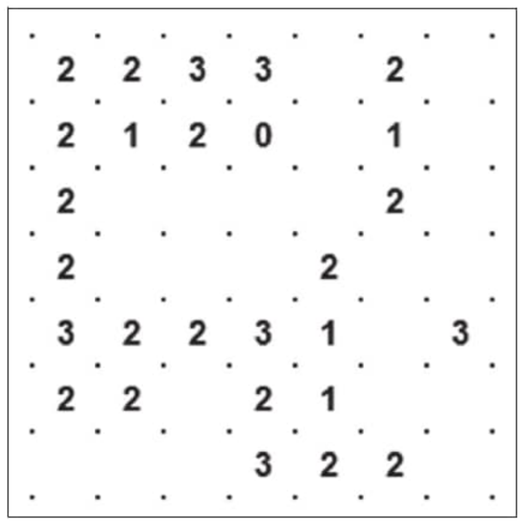
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



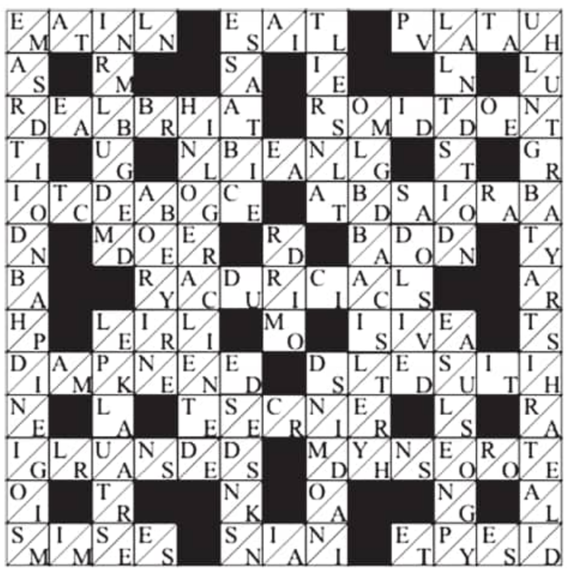
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



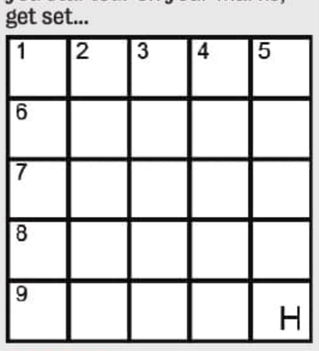
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Trams; 6 Aster; 7 Lamia; 8 Annas; 9 Ph rag

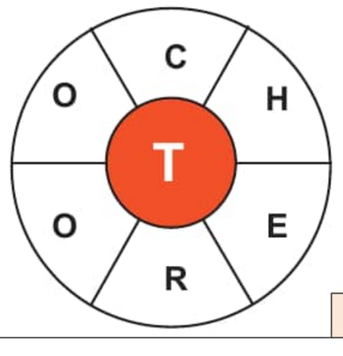
DOWN

1 Tings; 2 Alarm; 3 A Nasa; 4 Rap me; 5 Harts

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the third circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			7		5		2	
	1	5	4				6	7
				6			8	
			5			8		6
		8		3		2		
5		2			9			
	4			7				
1	3				4	9	7	
	5		6		8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 24

3 4 8 9

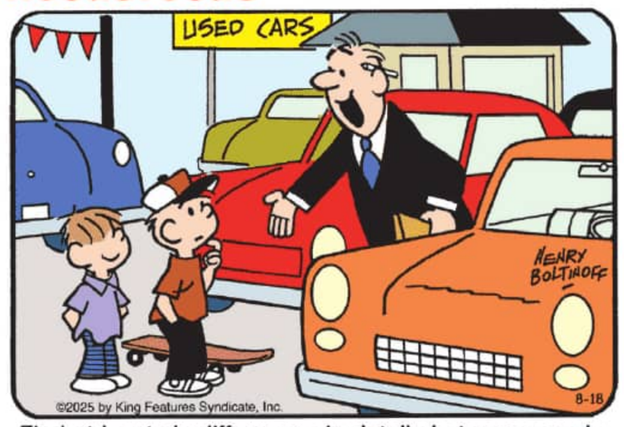
Medium = 9

1 3 5 7

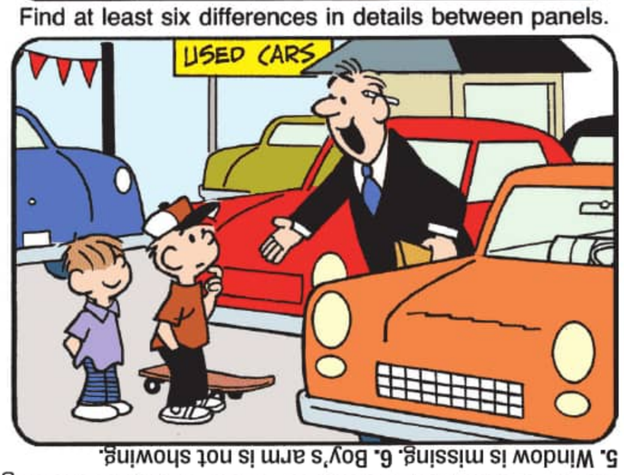
Hard = 19

1 1 3 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Mirror on windshield is lower. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Skateboard is shorter. 4. Car tire is not showing. 5. Window is missing. 6. Boy's arm is not showing.

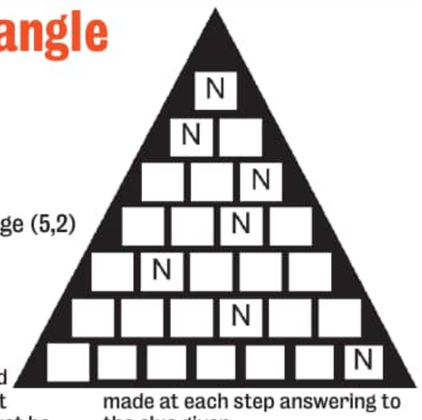
Riddler

A part of the body is hidden in each of the following sentences. Can you figure them all out?

1. The ad is for Mondays sale.
2. The tour group can go to either country.
3. My car makes funny noises sometimes.
4. Sarah and Tony are getting married.

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Neon symbol
3 Decimal base
4 Conveyed
5 Pot starts
6 Makes up for
7 Accepts a challenge (5,2)



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

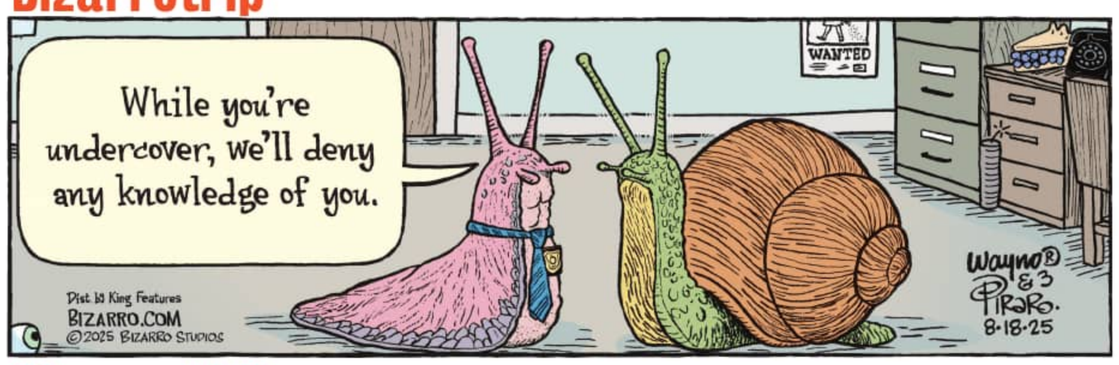
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

THAT IS A GERF!
I SEZ IT IS A JEEP!
?
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT GERFS?
?
THEY CAN SNIFF OUT THE ORIGINAL FROM A GROUP OF CLONES!
BLOW ME DOWN!? EUGENE, YOU JUS' B'COMED A GERF!
GERF!
2-26
BUD AGENDORF
©2025 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WAIT A SECOND...
I HAVE TO KISS ROMEO?! I'M GONNA HAVE MY FIRST KISS AT THEATER CAMP?!
DID YOU NOT REALIZE THIS WHEN YOU AUDITIONED FOR JULIET?
I DIDN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
9/18

Crankshaft

Mutts

FOSTER STORIES
"CHEESE-CAKE"
I WAS ABANDONED, TIED TO A POLE AND REDUCED TO JUST SKIN AND BONES.
THEN I WAS RESCUED, FOSTERED AND PUT ON A STEADY DIET OF FOOD
AND LOVE!
mutts.com
www.mightygoods.com
8-18

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your incredible ability to collaborate makes your career shine; a joint venture proves highly profitable. Finances grow significantly through smart, consistent passive income streams. Love is intense and transformative, demanding total authenticity and renewed trust. Your family requires you to be a listener; offer loving guidance, not swift judgement.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

A romantic surprise awaits you today. At work, show initiative and readiness for greater responsibility. Your dedication and enthusiasm will impress superiors, paving the way for meaningful growth and advancement.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Slow down, Leo, patience leads to excellence. Rushing risks mistakes, so prioritise quality over speed. Communicate your pace clearly at home and work; steady progress ensures satisfying, sustainable success.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Think before spending or committing to major changes. Assess finances carefully and wait if conditions feel uncertain. Responsible planning today prevents regret and ensures longterm stability and growth.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Take a restful break. Spend time near water or meditate to clear your mind. Overthinking drains energy; release unimportant worries and reconnect with peace, balance, and mental clarity today.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Reach out and connect with loved ones. Sharing thoughts strengthens trust and emotional bonds. You don't need to carry burdens alone; today supports authentic friendship, healing, and heartfelt connection.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Persistence defines success today. Your goals demand extra effort, but perseverance strengthens you. Embrace challenges with confidence; every obstacle teaches valuable lessons guiding your path toward future achievement.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Release lingering attachments; new love and opportunities await. Financially, things look stable, making it ideal for significant purchases. Focus on progress, not nostalgia.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Change surrounds you; welcome it with grace. Shifts in work or family life lead to progress. Adapt, trust the process, and stay flexible; growth comes through acceptance, not resistance.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

New beginnings unfold beautifully. Let go of outdated habits or attachments. Fresh love or career prospects await; approach everything optimistically, embracing transformation that brings excitement, renewal, and happiness.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Your charm shines brightly, attracting admiration and positive attention. Both at work and socially, you inspire others effortlessly. Embrace connection and confidence; today brings opportunities for meaningful new relationships.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

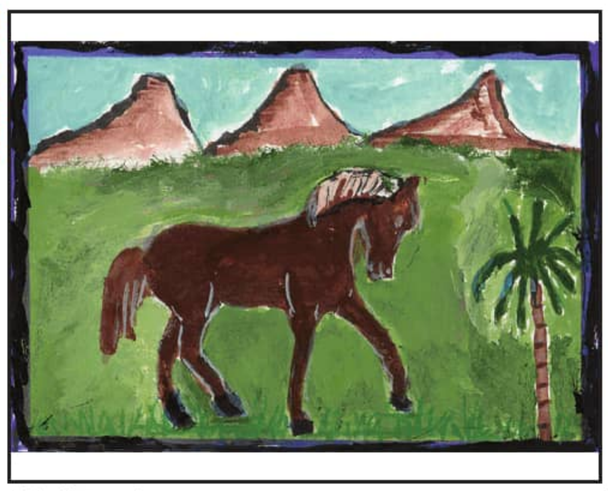
Stay observant and cautious today. Hidden details matter; review information twice before acting. Trust intuition, avoid distractions, and rely on your insight to navigate confusion successfully and protect progress.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Perception matters. Observe carefully; things may differ from appearances. Ask questions, seek clarity, and trust intuition. Understanding others' intentions ensures insight, harmony, and wise decision-making today.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



C Akash, Bengaluru

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$25^{1/2} + 16^{1/2} - 3 \times 1 = \sqrt{25} + 4 - 3 = 9 - 3 = 6$

BULL'S EYE

CHEROOT, cohort, cootch, hector, hoot, other, retch, root, rote, torch, tore

FAST FIVE

S	M	A	R	T
T	A	S	E	R
I	L	A	M	A
N	A	N	A	S
G	R	A	P	H

RIDDLER

1. head, 2. toe, 3. arm & 4. hand

STRIKE OUT

M	A	I	L	S	A	T		P	A	T	H			
A	M		A		E			N		U				
R	A	B	B	I	T		S	O	D	D	E	N		
T	U		N	I	A	L	L		S		G			
I	C	E	A	G	E		A	D	S	O	R	B		
N		D	E	R		R		B	O	N		Y		
A		R	A	D	I	C	A	L		I	V	E		T
H		L	I	I		O		I	V	E		T		
I	M	P	E	N	D		S	L	E	U	T	H		
N		L		E	E	R	I	E		L		R		
G	L	A	N	D	S		M	Y	S	O	R	E		
I		T		K		O		G				A		
S	M	E		S	I	N		E	Y	E	D			

QUICK

								D	O	Y	O	U	M	I
							K	O	I		C		N	
						L		G	O	N	D	O	L	I
					A		I		A		S		A	
				T	Y	R	A	N	T		S	H	I	E
			B		N		R		M		N		E	
		E	X	T	R	A	V	A	G	A	N	T		
		N		E		T		O		R		A		
	S	O	S	A	Y	S		F	R	I	A	R	Y	
	M		E		A		N		E		R		O	
	I		S	U	P	P	O	R	T	E	R		L	
	R	H	O		E		U		E	S	P			

MENSA PUZZLE

1. In each circle, the bottom number equals the sum of the squares of the top two numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE

We grow a little every time we do not take advantage of some-bodys weakness.

SUDOKU

6	8	3	7	1	5	4	2	9
9	1	5	4	8	2	3	6	7
7	2	4	9	6	3	5	8	1
3	9	1	5	2	7	8	4	6
4	7	8	1	3	6	2	9	5
5	6	2	8	4	9	7	1	3
8	4	9	3	7	1	6	5	2
1	3	6	2	5	4	9	7	8
2	5	7	6	9	8	1	3	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, Ne, Ten, Sent, Antes, Atones, Takes on.

GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 9 + 8 + 3 = 24
Medium
5 x 3 + 1−7 = 9
Hard
3 x 6 + 1 x 1 = 19

LOOP

KAKURO

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Shilpa's legal move against image pirates —
Shilpa Shetty has reportedly approached the Bombay High Court to safeguard her personality rights. The Bollywood actress opposes online use of her images and morphed content

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Aparichithe marks purposeful debut

Former Chief Minister DV Sadananda Gowda unveiled the trailer of Geethapriya Sureshkumar's forthcoming Kannada film Aparichithe during a function organised at a private hotel near Mekhri Circle on Saturday. Geethapriya made her debut in Sandalwood as an actress with the Kannada film Thayavva, which was released in May 2025. Actress-cum-politician Thara released one of the film's songs. Sadananda Gowda's wife, Datty, was the guest of honour at the event.

"Geethapriya has made this film with good intentions. We can convey a message to society through cinema. I wish the team of Aparichithe the very best," said Sadananda Gowda.

Thanking Sadananda Gowda and his wife, Datty, for gracing the occasion, Geethapriya said that she, along with her husband Sureshkumar, had started an educational institution in 1985. "The institution began with 10 students. Now, it has around 10,000 students. Prior to this, I acted in the Kannada film Thayavva. My husband, Sureshkumar, produced this film. I played a teacher in it. The shooting took place in and around Ramanagara. We are planning to release the film during Christmas," Geethapriya said.

She said Vishwanath had narrated the script to her. "I told the director that I wanted to act in a film that conveys a message to society," she said.

Director Vishwanath said the real-incident-based film has wrapped and awaits censor approval. Srinath and his son Rohith feature in it.

Music maestro onboard

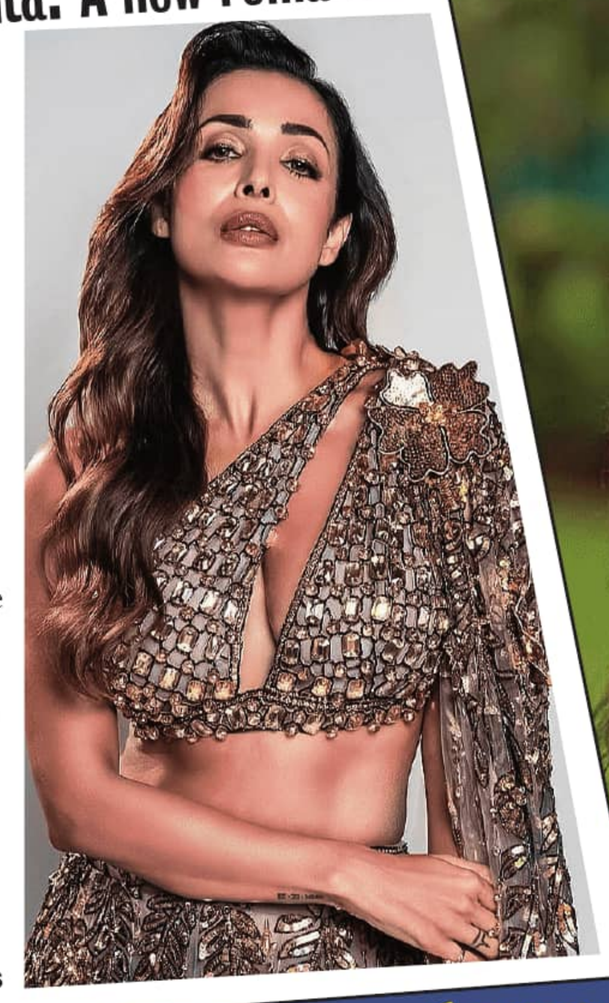
Kannada movie Balaramana Dinagalu is set to join the list of big-budget films lined up for release in 2026. Well-known South Indian music director Santosh Narayan has joined the team of Balaramana Dinagalu. The team of Balaramana Dinagalu is excited about Santosh Narayan composing the music for the film.

It is said that Santosh Narayan has composed music for several big-budget films in Tamil. So far, he has scored music for 50 films. Balaramana Dinagalu, one of the big-budget films in Sandalwood, will be his 51st film as a music director.

According to reliable sources, the team of Balaramana Dinagalu has been busy with the post-production work of the film. They are making arrangements to release the first song of the film next month. The film is scheduled to arrive in theatres in February 2026.

It is directed by KM Chaitanya, who is known for handling the megaphone for the Kannada movie Aa Dinagalu, which was released in October 2007. The film features Vinod Prabhakar, Priya Anand, Atul Kulkarni, Ashish Vidyarthi, Sharath Lohitashwa, and Vinay Gowda.

Malaika and Harsh Mehta: A new romance?



Malaika Arora appears to have moved on in her personal life years after parting ways with Arjun Kapoor. Recently, her name has been linked to a 33-year-old diamond merchant following their appearance together at Enrique Iglesias' concert in Mumbai on October 29. The two were seen chatting several times during the evening and even left the venue side by side, giving rise to speculation about a possible romance.

Airport sighting sparks dating buzz

Malaika was spotted with Harsh Mehta on November 26, keeping distance while exiting the terminal but later sharing a ride in her car. Romance rumours persist; she stays silent.

She previously dated Arjun Kapoor from 2018 until their 2024 breakup, confirmed during his Singham Again promotions.

Professionally, Malaika impressed with her dance in Poison Baby from Thamma and serves as a judge on Pitch To Get Rich alongside Navjot Singh Sidhu and Shaan.

—ETimes

'SAIYAARA' STAR ADMITS FAME IS CRUSHING

Overnight success has left Aneet overwhelmed, emotional, and learning the weight of stardom

The 23-year-old star has just begun her journey with the romantic blockbuster Saiyaara, directed by Mohit Suri, alongside Ahaan Panday. Aneet started working as a model in her teens and has appeared in several adverts. She made her acting debut with a small role in Salaam Venky. The year 2025 was when her life completely changed because of Saiyaara, and she reflects on how beautiful yet overwhelming this journey has been, while acknowledging that it also brings a responsibility she is still learning to carry.

Pressure of fame

In an interview with Grazia India, Aneet shared that instant visibility comes with emotional weight. She feels everything intensely, and that sensitivity makes fame feel heavier at times. She said, "I'm very sensitive. I feel things deeply. So, the responsibility of love, that weight of wanting to do right by the people who support me, can feel pressurising. It's beautiful, but sometimes, it is a lot." Still, she continues moving forward with intention, reminding herself that growth comes with challenges.

Fan edits move her

Edits, reels, and fan pages celebrate her scenes, expressions, and her chemistry with co-star Ahaan Panday. These gestures affect her deeply. She admits that she cries at least once every week because the effort put into those clips feels overwhelming in the best way. She said, "I cry once a week looking at the edits my fans make. The effort, the love — I just hope I can do justice to it."

Upcoming projects

Aneet is gearing up for Shakti Shalini, which is part of the upcoming horror–comedy universe including Stree (2018), Bhediya (2022), Munjya (2024), Stree 2 (2024), and the latest release, Thamma (2025). She will also appear in the courtroom drama Nyaya.

—ETimes

Behind the scenes of love and war

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal are currently shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming film Love and War. Fans are excited to watch the off-screen couple on the big screen. New pictures of Alia and Ranbir from the set have gone viral, showing the duo in striking looks.

IIFA shared photos of Alia and Ranbir rehearsing, guided by Bhansali. Alia looks adorable in her retro avatar, and fans quickly flooded social media with reactions.

The film was earlier expected to release on Eid 2026, but a report by Bollywood Hungama says it is running behind schedule, potentially pushing the release to June 2026. Bhansali has asked actors to keep their dates free until summer. An insider said the film is around 40 days behind schedule, with Ranbir and Bhansali set to announce the new date soon.

At a Mumbai event, Ranbir called the project a dream, praising the director and co-stars.

—ETimes